



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination 2014 Carryover Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Service Area 1: Practice area to include portions of Charlotte, DeSoto, Hendry, Glades, and Lee Counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Intersection of US Hwy 29 with SR 80; LaBelle, FL 33935

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☒ High Priority ☐ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☒ Other: _cervidae_____

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This shortage area is in the heart of Florida's major cow-calf industry, with an estimated 265,000 cattle. It includes very large ranches, and an increasing number of smaller farms with beef cattle and small ruminants. There are 9 actively practicing veterinarians (30% or more of their time in food animal practice) working within this area. These veterinarians also provide veterinary services to a large number of horses and to companion animals. In addition, captive herd herds in this area are also seeking veterinarians.

This service or practice area, with a radius of 50-60 miles, extends over portions of five counties. It is primarily rural (LaBelle has a population of less than 5,000 people), but there are population centers and residential areas scattered among the ranches and farms. Urbanization is creeping into a portion of this area, but many small farms have arisen. This practice area has been designated as a Type II shortage area, as equine and possibly companion animal work may be required to ensure practice viability.

Objectives in addressing this shortage area include direct diagnosis and treatment, consultations on disease prevention and control, and herd health work on both small and large food animal operations

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Herd Health /Preventative Medicine for large beef cattle herds:

- Vaccinations and herd health programs
- Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
 - Florida ships approximately 700,000 calves annually
 - This region is the highest density of cow-calf operations in the state
- Reproductive management
 - Breeding soundness examinations
 - Pregnancy determination

Dairy herds – Most dairies in this area are >1000 head of milking animals. Veterinarians involved with these dairies are working with the management and are less involved in individual animal care. They are important in the development of management plans for each class of animals that includes health and welfare of the individuals and the herd as a whole. This industry is proactive in meeting consumer desires for a healthy, wholesome product.

- Consultation and herd health
 - Reproductive management
 - Vaccination programs
 - Prescriptions (Withdrawal issues, approved product concerns)
- Nutrition management and problem solving

Small producers and small ruminant producers – This is a growing component of food animal practice in this area. The large ethnic population in this and the adjacent Miami areas consume a large amount of small ruminant product; therefore, the industry is exploding.

- All aspects of herd health and general management
- Emergency care

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Past Efforts to Recruit/Retain:

While past efforts to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians are not well documented, efforts have been made to hire and retain food animal veterinarians in this shortage area. Surveys of producers and veterinarians have indicated that problems of insufficient income, more hours worked, and the physical hardships of food animal practices have made it more difficult to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians. Recruitment efforts will be important in the future as 50% (5/10) of food animal veterinarians in this area have more than 15 years of practice experience.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Risk of not securing or retaining positions:

- Negative Impact on Animal/Farm or Ranch Health and Welfare
 - Many farms or ranches, particularly smaller operations, will not have access to veterinary services
 - Individual animals and herds will lack preventative veterinary care, and diagnostic services and treatment resulting in increased animal morbidity and mortality
 - Increased production and economic losses to producers
 - Lack of expertise and consultation to promote overall health and welfare through improved vaccinations, nutrition, and reproductive programs
- Negative Impact on Community/State/Federal Food Animal Industries
 - Undiagnosed and untreated disease transmission within herds and between adjacent herds or exposure in marketing channels
 - Lack of first line of defense in recognizing and reporting suspected foreign or emerging diseases of significant concern to state and federal officials for emergency investigation and response (Florida is at very high risk of foreign animal disease introduction because of its geographic location, climate, and high volume of international trade)
 - Lack of immediate or farm action to limit disease spread and initiate regulatory action can have enormous negative economic impact on producer, community, state and national industry for highly contagious reportable diseases
 - Reduction in overall animal health and welfare with increased public concerns relative to humane treatment

- Negative Impact on Food Safety/Public Health/Environment
 - Lack of guidance and direction on selection and usage of vaccines and drugs to enhance efficacy and food safety
 - Lack of guidance and directions on issues such as drug withdrawal times, carcass disposal, and zoonotic disease risks that may impact public health

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

50%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Thomas J. Holt, D.V.M.

Name: _____

State Veterinarian, Director

Title: _____

Organization: Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Thomas.Holt@freshfromflorida.com

Email: _____

(850) 410-0900

Telephone Number: _____

(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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